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Agenda items 36 and 54

The situation in the Middle East

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 31 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to draw your attention to the following information:

At dawn on Wednesday, 30 January 2013, Israeli aircraft violated the airspace of the Syrian Arab Republic, entering over an area north of the Jabal al-Shaykh (Mount Hermon) Heights at low altitude in order to avoid being detected by radar. The aircraft then proceeded to a scientific research centre located in Jamraya, Rif Dimashq, and bombarded it, killing two employees and injuring five others. The attack caused destruction and substantial material damage not only to the centre, but also to the adjacent technical development centre and a parking garage. The hostile aircraft withdrew following the same route. Syria emphasizes that there is no truth to the media reports asserting that the Israeli aircraft had targeted a convoy that was heading from Syria to Lebanon.

This heinous Israeli aggression followed several failed attempts over a period of months by armed terrorist groups to enter and take control of the above-mentioned site, and occurred after Israel, in cooperation with States hostile to the Syrian people, had ordered its lackeys inside the country to strike selected vital Syrian military sites. Although these lackeys, headed by the Al-Qaida-affiliated Nusrah Front, were able to attack some of those sites, including air defences and other vital locations, over the past months, they have failed to strike the majority of them.

These determined efforts and the subsequent attack by the Israeli aircraft against the scientific research centre prove beyond a doubt that Israel is instigating, benefiting from and, in some instances, carrying out, whether directly or through its lackeys on the inside, the terrorist attacks against Syria and its people.

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The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Security Council to condemn unequivocally this blatant aggression by Israel against the territory of a sovereign State and its violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces and the relevant Security Council resolutions. Should the Security Council yet again refrain from shouldering its responsibility to condemn Israel's grave aggressions, that would amount to a failure to fulfil its role under the Charter of the United Nations to maintain peace and security, both in the region and internationally, and would lead to instability and undermine regional and international peace and security. Syria holds Israel, and those in the Security Council who are protecting it, fully responsible for the consequences of this aggression, and affirms its right to defend itself, its territory and its sovereignty.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 54, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative